and precise manpower statistics are required; the National Technical Manpower information System (NTMIS) sponsored by the Ministry of the Human Resource Development, of which IAMR is the Lead Centre, covers engineering graduates and diploma holders.

The Central Advisory Committee of the National Technical Manpower Information System had considered and approved, with the support of the Ministry of Labour, the extension of the scope of the NTMIS to the ITI trainees in one of its meetings.

It is reported by IAMR that it has not been found possible to cover the ITIs under the NTMIS as continuance of NTMIS is separately being examined.

(c) Estimates of economically active stock of different categories of educated manpower in 1985 and 1990 are given on page 123 of Vol. II of the Seventh Plan Document. The Statewise break-up of these estimates have not been made.

Removal of Poverty

3185. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether removal of poverty remains a central concern of Planning in India ;

(b) if so, the latest steps taken or propose to be taken to lift the poor and bring this population above the poverty line ; and

(c) what is the overall national average percentage of population who live below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Seveth Five Year Plan, investiments on poverty alleviation programmes such as Intergrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) have been considerably increased. Special Programmes are also being implemented for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as for Hilly and backward areas. In eddition to the esisting programmes, it is proposed to launch a new intensive rural employment programmes named after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, with a provision of Rs. 500 crores in 1989-90.

(c) The proportion of persons living below poverty line in 1983-84 has been estimated at 37·4 per cent. The percentge is expected to go down further during the current Plan period.

Public Grievances

3186. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Grievances received by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions since January, 1987;

(b) the number of Public Grievances disposed off ; and

(c) the time taken to dispose of each grievance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) During the period from January, 1987 to February, 1989, the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances received 24,380 grievances. These were sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments/ State Governments with a request to